

Amendments to the Claims

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of claims:

Claims 1-11 (Cancelled)

Claim 12. (Currently amended) A method for identifying an agent that inhibits T lymphocyte development, the method comprising:

- (a) assaying inositol 1,4,5-trisphosphate 3-kinase B (IP3KB) in the presence of a test agent;
- (b) identifying one or more agents that inhibit ~~the~~ a cellular level or kinase activity of IP3KB; and
- (c) testing said one or more agents for ability to inhibit T lymphocyte development at the double positive stage; thereby identifying an agent that inhibits the production of mature T lymphocyte.

Claim 13. (Cancelled)

Claim 14. (Previously presented) The method of claim 12, wherein said one or more agents identified in step (b) inhibit kinase activity of the IP3KB.

Claim 15. (Previously presented) The method of claim 14, wherein the kinase activity is to catalyze conversion of inositol 1,4,5-triphosphate (IP3) to inositol 1,3,4,5-tetrakisphosphate (IP4).

Claim 16. (Previously presented) The method of claim 12, wherein said one or more agents identified in step (b) are tested for ability to inhibit CD4⁺ CD8⁺ T cell development into CD4⁺ or CD8⁺ T cells.

Claims 17-27. (Cancelled)

Claim 28. (Previously presented) The method of claim 12, wherein the IP3KB has an amino acid sequence of Accession No. CAB65055, Accession No. CAC40660, Accession No. NP_002212 or SEQ ID NO: 1.

Claim 29. (Previously presented) The method of claim 12, wherein the IP3KB is encoded by a polynucleotide having a nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2, 3, or 4.

Claim 30. (Currently amended) The method of claim 12, wherein said one or more agents identified in step (b) decrease the cellular levels level of IP3KB in a cell.

Claim 31. (Previously presented) The method of claim 30, wherein the cell is selected from the group consisting of thymus cell, CD4⁺ CD8⁺ T cell, CD4⁺ T cell, CD8⁺ T cell, and NK cell.

Claim 32. (Previously presented) The method of claim 30, wherein said one or more agents identified in step (b) inhibit the expression of a gene encoding IP3KB.

Claims 33-38. (Cancelled)

Claim 39. (Currently amended) The method of claim ~~[[1]]~~12, wherein step c) comprises testing said one or more agents for ability to inhibit T lymphocyte development ~~in the thymus~~ in vivo or in vitro.